

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 01071 180636Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
TRSE-00 /056 W
-----181227Z 102670 /14
R 180520Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7729
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 1071

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NP
SUBJ: NATIONAL ELECTIONS DUE APRIL 10, CABINET CHANGES
RUMORED

1. GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT SECOND ROUND OF ELECTIONS TO NATIONAL PANCHAYAT WILL BE HELD APRIL 10 IN NECHI, BAGMATI, BHERI AND GANDAKI ZONES UNDER NEW PROCEDURE OF SECOND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. CANDIDATES WILL NOT BE ANNOUNCED UNTIL COMPLETION OF POLLING AT DISTRICT LEVEL APRIL 2 AND 3. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT ANY MAJOR CHANGES, HOWEVER, SINCE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN BOARD OF BACK TO THE VILLAGE APPEARS TO BE ENDORSING ONLY THOSE CANDIDATES WITH KNOWN POLITICAL EXPERIENCE AND PRO-PANCHYAT RECORD.

2. ACCORDING TO CURRENT RUMORS KING WILL ANNOUNCE NEW CABINET ON APRIL 13, NEW YEARS DAY, FOLLOWING FOUR ZONAL ELECTIONS. HE IS REPORTED TO BE AWAITING RESULTS OF INDIAN ELECTIONS BEFORE DECIDING FATE OF PRIME MINISTER GIRI. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL EMBASSY SOURCES KING HAS SAID HE WILL RETAIN GIRI SHOULD MADAME FHANDI WIN; IF OPPOSITION COMES TO POWER IN INDIA KING IS LEANING TOWARDS FORMER PRIME MINISTER KIRTI NIDHI BISTA TO FORM NEW CABINET. GIVEN
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BISTA'S ANTI-INDIAN VIEWS THAT LOGIC OF THAT DECISION ESCAPES US, SINCE WE WOULD EXPECT KING TO MAKE EFFORT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH NEW INDIAN GOVERNMENT. FINANCE MINSTER BEKH THAPA IS SAID TO BE ON LIST OF THOSE TO BE DISMISSED IF GIRI IS GIVEN NEW MANDATE, SINCE RELATIONS BETWEEN GIRI AND THAPA HAVE BEEN STRAINED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. KING IS ALSO REPORTED TO BE UNHAPPY WITH PERFORMANCE OF K.B. SINGH, HEAD

OF BACK TO VILLAGE CAMPAIGN AND MINISTER OF LAND REFORM,
AGRICULTURE, AND FOOD. KING IS DISTURBED AT CONFLICTS WHICH
HAVE GROWN UP BETWEEN BACK TO THE VILLAGE AND COU NCIL OF
MINISTERS OVER IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES IN WHICH GIRI AND
OTHER PALACE ADVISORS HAVE COMPLAINED THAT SINGH AND OTHERS
HAVE UPSURPED GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS.
MAYTAG

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NNN

Message Attributes

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